

# EL PASO HERALD

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## El Paso's Strategic Position.

EL PASO merchants, wholesale and retail, as a class do not seem to realize their great advantages in the matter of freight rates. This city has a strategic position with reference to the strategy of ratemaking than any other city between the Missouri river and the Pacific coast. We have the shortest and best transcontinental routes, which are virtually ratemakers for the continent. This is a highly competitive point, not only for transcontinental business, but for Mexican business. In addition to all other advantages, we have the benefit of actual as well as theoretical water competition on both sides of us. El Paso gets benefits from the gulf of Mexico water haul and also from the rates of Pacific coast ports. We get the benefit of competitive rates through Mexico and the Mexican ports and the benefit of the Tehuantepec and Panama rates.

The trials and griefs of other interior cities, such as Denver, Salt Lake, and Spokane, do not interest us except as we are interested generally in the welfare of our sister cities. The basis of their grievances does not apply to this city. There is no reason why we should join with them in any protest they may make. This city stands alone, and occupies almost as advantageous a position as if it were a seaport.

El Paso retailers and jobbers are in a position right now to control the retail and wholesale trade of an enormous territory. Our merchants ought to be able to extend their trade much further than they now do. If Kansas City, Denver, and Los Angeles reach into territory that we claim as our own, it is our fault because we do not live up to the opportunities and take advantage of the favorable conditions that await us.

The truth is, notwithstanding all the wonderful accomplishments that we can truthfully set down to our record, that we are really backward about pushing forward. If we can do what we have done, while half asleep, what great things might we do if we were to wake up.

The Herald is not an advocate of statewide prohibition by constitutional amendment or by statute; neither does this paper countenance the deliberate misrepresentations that are resorted to to make a case for the local optionists. News at hand from Atlanta, Ga., clearly shows that prohibition has not hurt that city. Atlanta is a city of 160,000 people. The saloons were abolished in 1908 under that prohibition. The assessed valuation in 1907 was \$92,000,000, while in 1909 under prohibition it had gone up to \$108,000,000. Bank clearings for 1909 were almost double what they were for 1907 before prohibition. There were a little more than half the number of arrests for drunkenness in 1909 than there were in 1907. There are good reasons why statewide prohibition is unwise at this time; but the prospect of financial loss or loss of population is not one of the reasons, for there is no such prospect.

## The Joker of the Heavens.

THE comet will be on view to the best advantage only two or three more days now until after May 18. It can be seen clearly any morning between 3:30 and 4, and it is gradually drawing nearer to the sun and will rise later and dim more quickly.

The comet is a great sight right now. Popular estimates on the length of the tail vary "from 15 to 40 feet," but the astronomers say that the tail of the comet is 100,000 miles in length. On May 18 the earth will pass through the comet's tail near the outermost extremity, and the earth will be whirling through the comet's tail at a distance estimated at 2,000,000 miles or more. On May 20 the earth and the comet will be only 14,000,000 miles apart and the comet is expected to appear much larger than it does now.

Spectrum analysis and spectrum photographs of the comet indicate that the light is caused not only by the gases composing the comet's body and tail, but in part by sun light reflected from minute particles of solid matter. The yellow color of the comet's head is due to sodium gas.

The density of the comet's tail is less than any vacuum we can produce by human means. The light of a star passing 20,000,000 or 30,000,000 miles through the material of a comet's tail is not diminished in the slightest degree.

There are some people who would not get up to look at the comet if it came into the house and sat beside them on the bed.

The county road between Main street and San Francisco street at the important crossing near the chamber of commerce. This is worth mentioning because it indicates that somebody is taking notice after all these months. But the general condition of the crossing there is inexcusable and the whole situation should be straightened up without delay. The present condition there is disgraceful and dangerous, and there is no reason why the necessary work should be put off any longer.

Down in Texas they are fighting like sin over statewide prohibition. That is the issue before the people among the four candidates. Cone Johnson seems to be the favorite with most of the prohibitionists, although Poindeexter will divide that vote. Colquitt is undoubtedly stronger with the conservative Democrats than Davidson. Johnson has at least two conspicuous qualifications of merit. In 1892 he voted for George Clark for governor instead of J. S. Hogg, and in 1896 he refused to vote for Bryan as president. In both cases he showed an independence of thought and act that are needed to make a capable executive. Colquitt is making his greatest appeal on the ground that he is again Campbell and everything Campbell represents. One ardent Dallas admirer gives Colquitt a terrible lick by grouping him with senator Bailey and governor Patterson of Tennessee as "The three greatest living sons of the south." At present it looks as if the contest would narrow down to a fight between Johnson and Colquitt.

No other business repays more richly the effort and money expended in keeping up with current knowledge and scientific investigation than does farming.

## Western Men in Congress.

IN his speech at Pensacola, president Taft commented on the delay in passing the statehood bill as follows: "There is a hesitation on the part of the Republicans in the senate to pass a bill which is so likely to add four Democrats to the senate, or if not Democrats, Republicans so radical that they are entirely out of sympathy with the more conservative notions of the east."

The president need not be worried over this. The four men who go to Washington to represent the new states of Arizona and New Mexico in the senate will think and act nationally, not sectionally; that cannot be said of a large number of the eastern senators.

The senators from west of the Atlantic seaboard have forced the senate to progressive action hundreds of times in the past against the narrow views of the so-called conservatives. If the west had not had representation in the senate far out of proportion to its population during all these generations of national development, the west today would belong to England or France or Spain, or perhaps be the uncontested domain of the red Indians.

The western representatives in both houses of congress may be called the red corpses of the national legislative body.

## UNCLE WALT'S Denatured Poem

MY NEIGHBOR is a lucky man; he says we'll mix things with Japan, before a dozen years are gone, and so, at dusk, at noon, at dawn, he talks about that coming scrap, for which I do not care a rap. O, I have enough, alas! The chickens spoil my garden sassa, and cows and hogs, which have no sense, are always breaking through the fence; they ruin property of mine, and eat the washing off the line. And agents come and make me sore; they'd talk the handle off the door. The bill collectors are abroad, and daily touch me for my wad. A thousand worries, day by day, combine to make your uncle gray, and when the day draws to a close, and I am boughsome with my woes, I cry: "It seems a splendid plan, to fret o'er trouble with Japan. The man who buckles down to that won't break his heart and lose his fat. He concentrates his blooming grief; he gets his troubles in a sheaf, and does his weeping in a bunch; I'll try and profit by the hunch. This thing of scattering my tears, of spreading out my griefs and fears, is certainly a messy plan; I'm strong for trouble with Japan."

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## A SUMMER CAMP FOR SICK BABIES

BY H. GRACE FRANKLIN.  
Director Woman's Charity Association School for Mothers, Member of American Assoc. for Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality.

AT the baby clinic today, conducted under the direction of Miss Franklin for the Woman's Charity association, the physicians and attendants were all properly gowned in spotless white; a new, separate tongue depressor was used for each baby examined, and the instruments were then sterilized before being used again. Everything in connection with the baby clinic will be conducted in line with the most approved modern practice so as to prevent infection and to get the best possible good out of the service.

The "Save the Babies" fund has just received a check for \$50 from a good woman who does not wish her name mentioned. In her letter she says, "Kindly accept enclosed donation for the baby fund. I have followed with great interest the noble work done, and hope you will have grand success." Mrs. Milton Thayer sends \$1, and these contributions with the amount previously acknowledged bring the total so far contributed to \$776.50. In addition to the cash contributions, Mrs. E. Kohlberg and Mrs. J. Callisher have contributed generously of nurses' supplies for the clinic. Miss Thomson and Mrs. Milton J. Newman have contributed much valuable material for the "school for mothers," including coats, tables, alcohol lamps, lime water, turpentine, vasoline, gauze, uterine, etc. Mrs. Julia Guterman has contributed material worth a good deal of money. Dr. Hyde has offered services and has already begun work with the babies. The Sunshine society under the leadership of Mrs. Judd has made up 25 bundles of nurses' and babies' supplies for the baby saving work.

Dr. W. H. Anderson, city health officer, has given Miss Franklin who directs the baby saving work, all the power of a regular health officer; having the right to wear a police badge, she can bring pressure to bear for the improvement of unsanitary conditions among the Mexicans that she could not without this power. By the way, Dr. Anderson is getting ready to start a big sanitary campaign in the lower part of town with a view to cleaning up the public and private premises and making the conditions more livable for the thousands of people in that section.

Miss H. Grace Franklin, who is in charge of the relief work for babies in this city and of the "school for mothers," inaugurated in New York the work of visiting nurses and baby clinics among the poor of the tenement districts. She has made a thorough study of conditions here and contributes to The Herald the following article containing a valuable, highly original suggestion for meeting one of our most serious problems:

### SUMMER CAMP FOR SICK BABIES.

(By H. Grace Franklin.)

The need of a babies' hospital in El Paso is clear, is urgent, and just how to get that hospital is the most vital point. In presenting this plan I do not expect to see this camp in operation this year, but the seed may fall on fertile ground and next summer El Paso may be maintaining a school for mothers, infants' milk depot, home visiting and a summer camp for sick children.

If given the choice of a summer camp and the school for mothers I would always vote in favor of the school, but every city needs both, and one is more or less dependent on the other. Specie and persistent education of mothers ignorant of the proper care of their homes and children, has already made inroads upon the death rate of infants, and the hospital has found that to make an effective cure the mother must be a field nurse to visit the home of the discharged patients and give instructions as to home care, for often when this is not done they return in a short time with the same condition that when first admitted to the hospital.

Of course we are to have Cloudercroft for the babies of the well-to-do, but what about the babies of the poor? Every day the dispensary of mothers confronted with the need of some such institution where these babies may be sent. Cloudercroft is too far away for the poor and the need among the poor may be greater than the capacity of Cloudercroft.

A Novel System. Why not open a summer camp at Aoy school, Campbell and Seventh streets? This school is beautifully situated beside the canal and ideally located for a summer camp for babies. I understand the public schools close May 20 and do not re-open before Sept. 1st, thus giving an empty school house covering a period of more than three months. Many of the camps maintained in the larger cities are only kept open during July and August. Owing to the extreme hot weather here and to the long vacation, it would be impossible to keep the school open from June 1st to Sept. 1st.

To equip this camp will not necessitate a great outlay of money, for everything needed can be obtained in El Paso, and for such a camp it is far better not to use the regulation bed and mattress. Given the school room, a carpenter, lumber and canvas the ward can be equipped in a very short time. Everything would be so put together that in the fall the ward can be stripped and everything stored away for the next season.

By opening such a camp it will not be necessary to wean any of the babies, as the mothers can come at stated times to nurse them. Cots, seats and a sand pile can be placed out in the yard under the trees where the mothers may come with the well children and spend the day. Mothers' classes can be held here and in this way all of the education will be given at the central point. A tent can be placed and the clean milk, ice and distilled water dispensed from here. Nurses doing the home visiting will use this as a central headquarters.

Wider Usefulness. Such a hospital would not only do much toward reducing infant mortality, but it would act as a school for physicians, nurses, nurses' maids and midwives. If the local hospitals can be persuaded to see the advantages for their nurses the force could be selected from the hospital and placed under a competent supervisor. If this cannot be done a graduate nurse on duty during the day and one during the night, assisted by young girls desirous of becoming nurse maids, would be all the help needed. It is not necessary to have the hospital equipped other than for the simple ward work, a small gas or electric stove will be needed for preparing things used in the care of the babies, the laundry can be set out and the nurses will not be resident.

The important thing is not merely to "save" babies from dying, but to keep them well and increase their strength, to give them the best possible beginning for their lives.

Reduced to its simplest terms, the proposition we must consider is the fundamental right of a child to a fair deal.

H. Grace Franklin.

Twenty Years in Prison.

Sherman, Tex., May 12.—Twenty years in the penitentiary was assessed by the jury in the case of Albie Mingo, an Indian, charged with killing Wesley Higdon, of Devision, March 8, when a verdict was rendered in the district court here this morning.

The gospel tent services will begin tonight on the triangular park opposite the courthouse.

The well being sunk to secure water for the Sheldon block is now down 47 feet and working in adobe.

Dr. G. H. Graham, wanted in Pittsburg, was arrested this morning by detective L. N. Skinner of that city, and will be removed to Pennsylvania tonight, as he has waived extradition.

There are two serious charges against him there.

F. Johnson has filed an application in the district court for permission to practice law.

Metal market: Silver 68 1/2; lead 42.90; copper 10 1/2; Mexican pesos 52c.

## Spiritualism and Magic

MEDIUMS LIST IMPRESSIONABLE PEOPLE AND DEPEND ON TRICKS

WHILE there are some things connected with the phenomena of a few of the world's greatest spiritualistic mediums that cannot be dismissed with a wave of the hand and a denial of fraud, on the other hand there is no fact better attested than that at least 95 percent of all commercial spiritualism is unmitigated fraud. Fortunately the literature of exposure is large, authentic, and largely written by those who have been mediums themselves.

In this series of articles it is the purpose to give a synopsis of the tricks and deceptions of commercial spiritualism and magic. This will not embrace every trick, or even many of the most recent, for as soon as one trick is exposed some brain evolves another method to do the same thing, and the brotherhood of spiritualists in a clearing house in which the discovery of one medium is made the property of all. But enough will be shown to make it plain that one cannot always believe his eyes.

To begin with, it is important to get well into the wind the fact that there is a brotherhood of spiritualistic mediums, and that what one knows they all know. As Dun and Bradstreet has information about the financial responsibility of every man who buys or sells in the commercial world, so the spiritualistic blue book is filled with information about the mediums, and by which they are known, or hope to do, business. That this blue book is comprehensive is indicated by the fact that there are 7000 names listed for the city of Boston alone.

This information is by no means limited to generalities. Indeed, the aim is to get specific and intimate details of family life, such as ones love affairs, marriages, bereavements, and the like. There are many ways by which this is accomplished, but the basic idea of the plan is an actual canvass of the cities and towns where the mediums are located. The mediums themselves do not force this information upon people, but rather they pry into private affairs.

It is more productive of results, and not at all harmful in consequences, that these things should be done by canvassers, for articles which take them into the homes of the people. It is called "planting" a town, and is done as carefully as the census taker or the directory worker does his work. Photographs often are secured, family Bibles perused, and every lot visited, the newspapers carefully read, and if any confirmed habitue of the spiritualistic seance thinks to long escape being listed in the blue book, together with his full name and home address, he must do it. They are as sure to get him as Dun or Bradstreet is sure to get the man who sets up in business.

Credulous Persons Listed. Of course this blue book is not a list of the names of all the people. The spiritualist cares nothing for information except about people who have the seance bug. And this enables the descriptions to be full and complete. Even the style of the clothes of the departed relatives is listed, and any particular marks of identification or physical peculiarities of deceased persons likely to be inquired after are noted. By the use of this information the mediums in the darkness or semi-darkness and the suppressed excitement of the seance room have made thousands of credulous persons identify the materialized spirit of dead men.

Produce Many Ghosts. The act of "materializing" the dead is regarded as the highest attainment of the spiritualistic medium. Doubters who have stood out against every other form of phenomena, unconvinced, have been converted when they have beheld these apparitions of lost loved ones, have been made to repent of their former doubts, and have been firmly convinced that there is a life after death.

Honest and highly intelligent men have been unable after serious investigation to explain these phenomena. Yet when it is explained, it becomes as clear as any magician's trick. To illustrate how completely puzzling may seem the materializing seance and yet how clear and plain the fraud when laid bare, one needs only consider the confession of a medium who brought into a room one, but seven ghosts, one at a time, and then, grand finale-of-the-circus fashion, all seven together, the while he himself was strapped to a chair and the curtains of the cabinet were drawn. The chair was nailed to the floor, the sitters were arranged, the lights were put out, and a music box set going. The curtain of the cabinet, a spot of luminous light. Gradually it grew into shape and form until there stood the startled spectators the apparition of a pretty young woman. Diamonds sparkled in her ears and also at her throat and on her fingers. She moved around in the room for awhile and then rapped for light. A dim red light appeared, and the lady of mystery sat down and held a whispered conversation with a well-to-do, benevolent old man among the sitters.

While she did so she gave others opportunity to grasp her hand, which was

found to be a warm hand of real flesh and blood. Then the lights went out, the lady of the diaphanous robes and bright jewels gradually faded back into a spot of light, which, in turn disappeared. At this juncture the lights were turned on and the sitters examined the medium, only to find him still strapped to the chair as firmly as ever.

Plethora of Spirits. Again the lights were put out, and shortly another little spot of ghastly light appeared. It grew, and while it was expanding into the form of humanity still another spot appeared, and in a short time there appeared before the audience, instead of two little spots of light, an aged man and a young boy, who, in the dim red light were recognized by one of the sitters as his father and his son. The diaphanous-robed lady, who would swear on the Bible that they were his father and his son. Did not the elder ghost have the same heavy eyebrows that characterized his father? Did not the son have the same light curly hair and cherubic face, and also the silvery voice of his own son? And was he not clad in the same clothes in which his son had been buried? Could his eyes belie him in this?

For the reasons with them confirmed the vision of his eyes; they told their names, when they had died, and a dozen intimate things of purely family concern. Then they ordered the lights out, were transformed again into spots of light on the carpet and returned to their "spirit world."

Four more appeared in turn, with an examination of the medium between each time, to see that he was still firmly strapped and bound as Bradstreet.

Now for the explanation. In the ceiling of the cabinet there was a trap-door. While the music box played the spirits descended the ladder conveniently located, and the diaphanous-robed woman was barefooted and attired in a night-gown. When she got to the bottom of the ladder she pulled a vast length of the finest net from a pocket in her gown. One of her hands was kept busy turning the cheap stones glittering from under the curtain the spot of light on the floor appeared. The filmy white net which she waved around as she gradually crawled from under the curtain, and then, to her stature, represented the cloud without form out of which she finally materialized.

Spots of luminous paint represented diamonds in the dark, and when the dim light was turned on, the cheap stones glittered where the paint had shone before. She disappeared as she came. All the others came as she did and disappeared in the same way. The conversations were made up in advance from the medium's blue book and his personal investigations.

Old Men Easy Victims. Mediums find that the most profitable class of sitters in the world are the impressionable old men who love to be hugged and kissed by spirits, and who, under such influences, become willing to part with their cash more quickly. When the spirits, by their tales of soul mates and such things, work these old men up to the point where they cannot restrain their desire for permanent materialization any longer, the daffy old fellows are sent far away to keep the try, while the medium finds it convenient to operate somewhere else. There are cases on record where such old men have spent \$20,000 in such seances. Of course they never "saw" the materialized spirits, but they were convinced that they had.

Of course all materializations are not accomplished in the manner related above. Sometimes the spirits have confederates among the spectators, sometimes they crawl into the room through a secret panel. Sometimes hands or faces appear in the shape of simple masks or clay hands covered with luminous paint. What appears to be only a lead pencil in the hand of the medium at the beginning of a seance is in reality a telescoped rod three feet long. A pair of tongs can easily be concealed and they may lift the luminous head or body of the materialized spirit in a startling way. Sometimes the medium herself plays the ghost. She may be as big and fat as all outdoors, but a black robe thrown over her shoulders may hide all the white except that sufficient to represent a petite figure.

Explanation Always Simple. Anyone who is tempted to carry his investigations to the point of grabbing the glowing spirit, and striking a match would better be warned. He has been tried, and sometimes a blow over the head with a blackjack, or some other uncomfortable experience, has been the reward of his curiosity.

This story of the ways and means of "materialization" might be extended through many columns without exhausting the subject. But however mysterious the "materialization," the explanation always is as simple as those here outlined.

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Tomorrow—Spiritualism and Magic: II—State-writing Tricks.

found to be a warm hand of real flesh and blood. Then the lights went out, the lady of the diaphanous robes and bright jewels gradually faded back into a spot of light, which, in turn disappeared. At this juncture the lights were turned on and the sitters examined the medium, only to find him still strapped to the chair as firmly as ever.

Plethora of Spirits. Again the lights were put out, and shortly another little spot of ghastly light appeared. It grew, and while it was expanding into the form of humanity still another spot appeared, and in a short time there appeared before the audience, instead of two little spots of light, an aged man and a young boy, who, in the dim red light were recognized by one of the sitters as his father and his son. The diaphanous-robed lady, who would swear on the Bible that they were his father and his son. Did not the elder ghost have the same heavy eyebrows that characterized his father? Did not the son have the same light curly hair and cherubic face, and also the silvery voice of his own son? And was he not clad in the same clothes in which his son had been buried? Could his eyes belie him in this?

For the reasons with them confirmed the vision of his eyes; they told their names, when they had died, and a dozen intimate things of purely family concern. Then they ordered the lights out, were transformed again into spots of light on the carpet and returned to their "spirit world."

Four more appeared in turn, with an examination of the medium between each time, to see that he was still firmly strapped and bound as Bradstreet.

Now for the explanation. In the ceiling of the cabinet there was a trap-door. While the music box played the spirits descended the ladder conveniently located, and the diaphanous-robed woman was barefooted and attired in a night-gown. When she got to the bottom of the ladder she pulled a vast length of the finest net from a pocket in her gown. One of her hands was kept busy turning the cheap stones glittering from under the curtain the spot of light on the floor appeared. The filmy white net which she waved around as she gradually crawled from under the curtain, and then, to her stature, represented the cloud without form out of which she finally materialized.

## PIONEER PHILOSOPHY.



It's not always so bad to be an orphan. Think of being a child and having to live with some of the neighbors you know.

## PAYNE SAYS PRICE IS HIGH ALL OVER WORLD

Denies That the Tariff Has Caused Increased Cost of Living Here.